KARAKURI CIRCUS

6

KAZUHIRO FUJITA

DELCOURT

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★ SUMMARY OF THE PREVIOUS VOLUMES ★

A YOUNG BOY NAMED MASARU SAIGA INHERITED A HUGE FORTUNE WHEN HIS FATHER DIED. HE'S PROTECTED BY SHIROGANE, A MYSTERIOUS GIRL WHO HANDLES A GIANT PUPPET NAMED ARLEQUIN. ONE DAY, MASARU IS ONCE AGAIN DIRECTLY IMPLICATED IN AN ABDUCTION CASE DUE TO HIS INHERITANCE. MASARU DECIDES TO LEAVE HIS SCHOOL AND TOWN WITH SHIROGANE AFTER THE VIOLENT EVENTS THAT FOLLOWED, WISHING TO NOT BE A SOURCE OF PROBLEMS FOR HIS SCHOOLMATES ANYMORE. SO THAT HE WON'T GET INVOLVED IN SHADY BUSINESS AGAIN, THEY LIVE "ON THE ROAD" WITH THE VERY KIND MEMBERS OF THE NAKAMACHI FAMILY, WHO WERE CIRCUS PERFORMERS IN THE PAST. BUT MASARU HAS YET TO REVEAL HIS REASONS FOR RUNNING AWAY TO THEM.
THEN TARANDA LISELOTTE APPEARS BEFORE THEM. SHE IS A YOUNG GIRL WHO IS ALSO A TAMER OF FEROCIOUS BEASTS AND IS FOLLOWED BY HER LION, NAMED DRUM. SHE CHASES A GIANT TIGER NAMED BEAST, FAMOUS FOR HIS FEROCITY, WHO HAS ALREADY KILLED LOTS OF PEOPLE. RESOLVED TO DIE IN ORDER TO KILL THE MONSTER, TARANDA PROUDLY FACES BEAST. ITS THE ONLY WAY FOR HER TO FREE HERSELF FROM THE MEMORY OF HER TWIN SISTER, BESIDE WHOM SHE WAS ALWAYS THE UNDERDOG. MASARU, WANTING TO SAVE TARANDA AGAINST HER WILL, DECIDED TO FIGHT AGAINST BEAST AS WELL. AFTER REGAINING HER SELF CONFIDENCE, THANKS TO MASARU'S CHEERING, TARANDA SUCCEEDED IN TAMING BEAST, WHO WAS KILLED BY DRUM IN THE END.

KARAKURI CIRCUS VOLUME 6

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■ KAZUHIRO FUJITA ■

GOOOH!
SUPERETTE
THE FIRE-MEN HAVE ARRIVED!
SURROUND THE BUILDING! BEAST MUSTN'T TAKE ADVANTAGE OF THE SITUATION TO ES-CAPE!

ACT III: CIRCUS * THE TAMER
PART EIGHT

"THE CURTAIN FALLS MOMENTARILY"

WAIT A SECOND! I THOUGHT YOU WERE SENT HERE TO LIMIT THE DAMAGE!?
...
IN FACT, YOU ONLY CALMLY OB-SERVED WHAT WAS GOING ON WITH YOUR ARMS CROSSED!
THIS TIGER IS A TRUE MONSTER! YOU'VE SEEN IT!

OH LA LAAA! WITH ALL THIS, THE CHIEF OF THE LOCAL POLICE DE-PARTMENT WILL BE FORCED TO RESIGN!
...THERE'S TOO MUCH DAMAGE AND TOO MANY VICTIMS!
THIS WAY!
EH!
TOKYO FIRE DEPARTMENT

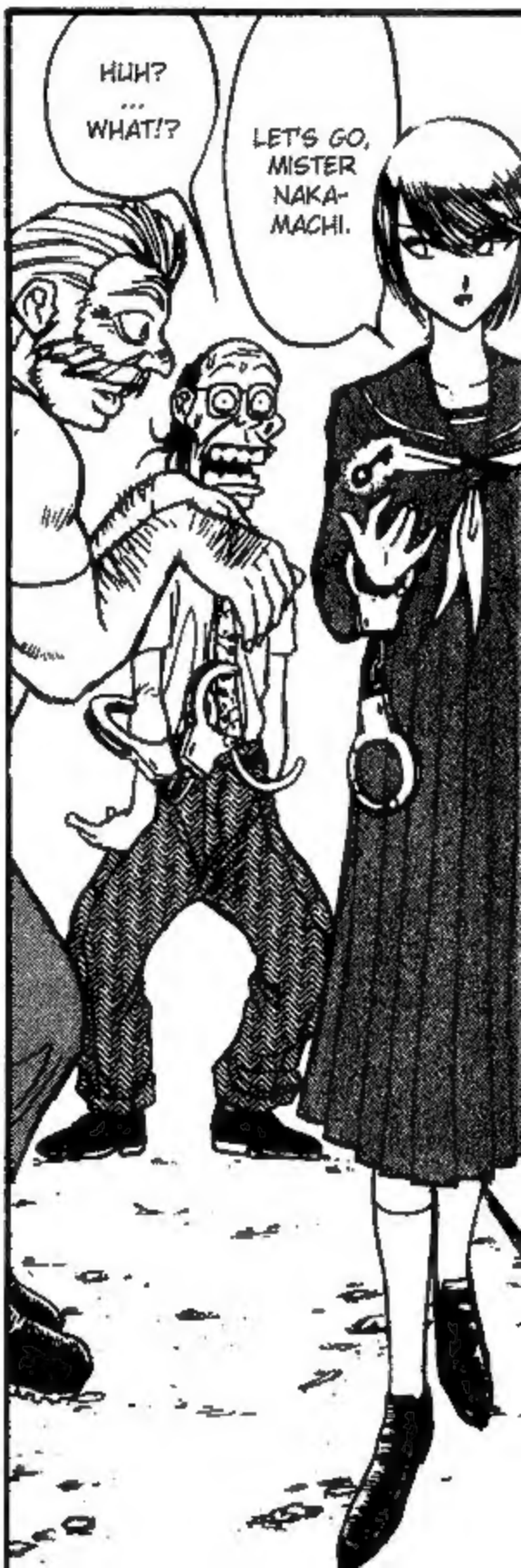
SCHLAK

WHEN I ARRIVED, EVERYTHING HAD ALREADY BEGUN! THE INTERVENTION SHOULD HAVE BEEN BETTER ORGANIZED!
OH NO? YOU THINK!?

YOUR SPECIALTY... IT'S CONTORTION, NOT MAGIC...
WHERE DID YOU FIND THIS KEY?

I BORROWED IT FROM SOMEONE WHO LOOKED VERY BUSY.

BUT BEFORE THAT...
I'M WORRIED ABOUT MASARU. LET'S GO INTO THE SHOPPING CENTER.


HUH? ... WHAT!?
LET'S GO, MISTER NAKAMACHI.

GLOUPS
...DEAR "PROFES-SOR"!
YOU'LL COME WITH US...
SALE

PSCHHH
GOO!
SHUT UP! I'M JUST ASKING YOU TO FOLLOW US!
LET GO! STUPID!
I'M WARNING YOU, THE SECOND IN COMMAND OF THE NATIONAL POLICE IS ONE OF MY FRIENDS FROM COLLEGE!!

CONFIDENCE IN ONE'S SELF, THE ANIMALS FEEL IT PERFECTLY... EVEN HER LION CAN FEEL IT!
WITH HER TIMID PERSONALITY, SHE'LL NEVER BEAT THE GENIUS BEAST!

I DON'T FEEL ANYTHING LIKE THAT FROM THIS GIRL'S PERSONALITY! SHE ALWAYS HAS HER EYES DOWN.
EVERY ONE WHO WORKS IN DIRECT CONTACT WITH ANIMALS HAS TO BELIEVE IN THEM SELF...

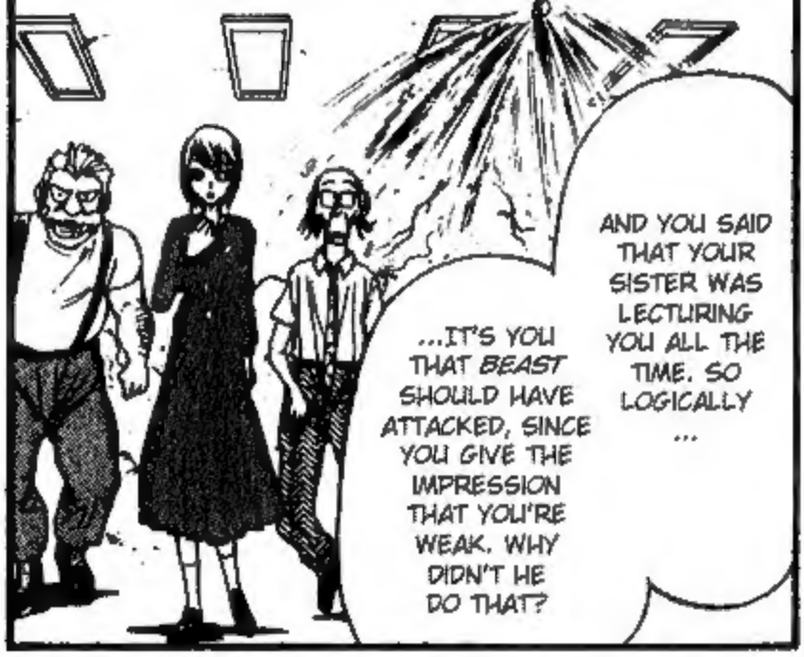
I ALREADY TOLD YOU, SEVERAL TIMES, THAT SHE'LL NEVER DO IT!
THEN YOU'LL BE ABLE TO TESTIFY THAT THIS GIRL KILLED BEAST!!

BOMF
BY THE WAY, THERE WAS NEVER A NEEDLE IN THAT LION'S TAIL! IT'S RIDICU-LOUS...
WHAT COULD HAPPEN? MIRACLES!? WHAT A JOKE! SCIEN-TISTS DON'T BELIEVE IN THAT KIND OF THING!
LISTEN! SOMETIMES, IN A CIRCUS...
HUH?
BUT... THERE ARE SOME-TIMES...
OUPS! ... SORRY!!
...MIRACLES IN A CIRCUS!

DOH!
THANK YOU...
IF I BEAT *BEAST*, IT'S THANKS TO YOU MASARU.
TARAN-DA!

YOU KNOW, TARANDA, YOU DID IT YOURSELF!
DRUM... WE SUCCEEDED AT LAST!
RRRH

I WONDERED WHY *BEAST* ATTACKED YOUR SISTER FIRST AND NOT YOU...
YES... FROM THE START.
...YOU DID?
...THAT YOU HAD AN UNBELIEVABLE CAPACITY TO TAME ANIMALS!
I SIMPLY AND SINCERELY BELIEVED...


...IT'S YOU THAT BEAST SHOULD HAVE ATTACKED, SINCE YOU GIVE THE IMPRESSION THAT YOU'RE WEAK. WHY DIDN'T HE DO THAT?
AND YOU SAID THAT YOUR SISTER WAS LECTURING YOU ALL THE TIME. SO LOGICALLY ...

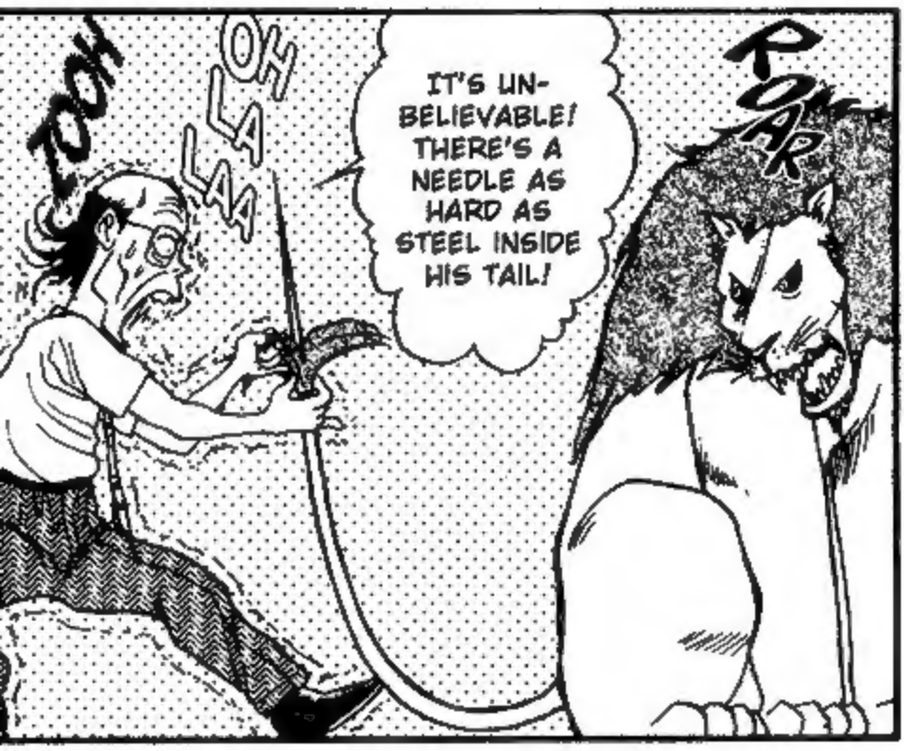
I TOLD MYSELF THAT IF I WAS A TIGER LIKE BEAST, I WOULD ATTACK SOMEONE WEAK FIRST...

DEEP INSIDE HIMSELF ...
...BEAST WAS AFRAID OF YOU!
THERE'S ONLY ONE POSSIBLE ANSWER.

HA HA HA! DAMN KID! IF YOU KNEW HOW WORRIED WE WERE!
MASTER, YOU'RE SAFE AND SOUND!
SHIROGANE! MISTER NAKAMACHI!
SO, YOU CAME HERE BECAUSE YOU BELIEVED IN THIS GIRL?

YES...
...IT'S COM-PLETELY LOGICAL.

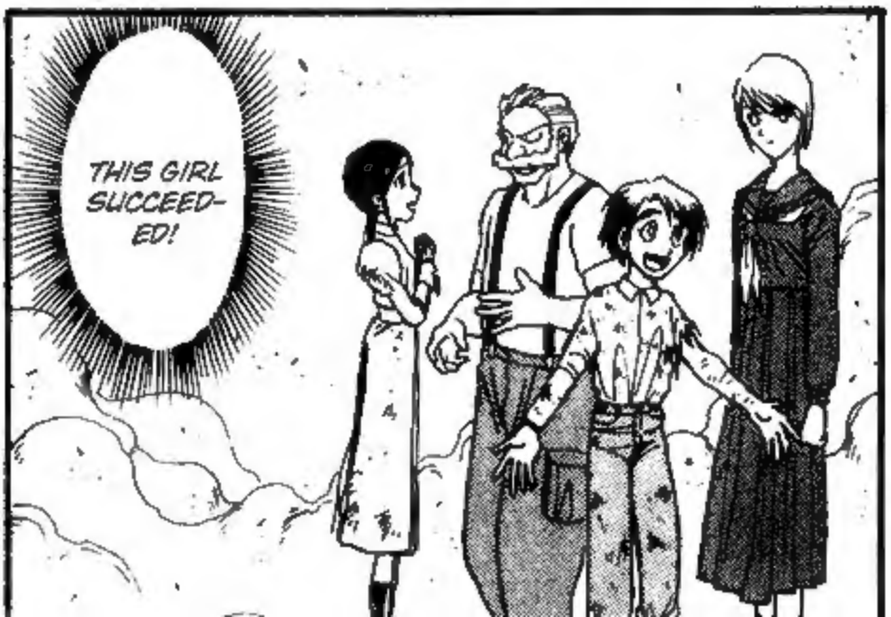
... HMM ...


IT'S UN-BELIEVABLE! THERE'S A NEEDLE AS HARD AS STEEL INSIDE HIS TAIL!
OOH
OH LA LAA
ROAR

...TAKE CARE OF IT.
BEAST HAS BEEN HIT DIRECTLY ON THE FOREHEAD! A CLEAN AND PRECISE HIT! WHEN I THINK THAT BEFORE, NEITHER BULLETS NOR POISON COULD...

THIS OLD LION AGAINST BEAST! ... THIS GIRL SUCCEEDED IN LAUNCHING AN OLD ANIMAL AGAINST THIS BLOODY MONSTER. DESPITE THE OBVIOUS DIFFERENCE IN PHYSICAL STRENGTH BETWEEN THE TWO CREATURES!

MISS...


THIS GIRL SUCCEED-ED!

HUH ... BUT ...
I DIDN'T BELIEVE IN YOUR TALENT.
I OFFER YOU ALL MY EXCUSES.
I HUMBLY ADMIT MY MISTAKE...
... I ...
YOU ARE A SPLENDID ...
... FEROCIOUS ANIMAL TAMER!
I TOLD YOU, DIDN'T I?!
HE HE HE HE
Do you want to do some research with me?
KID, YOU HAVE ASTONISHING PERCEP-TION!
CHECK THIS OUT! OUR OLD PROFESSOR IS REALLY SENTIMENTAL!
POI ZON

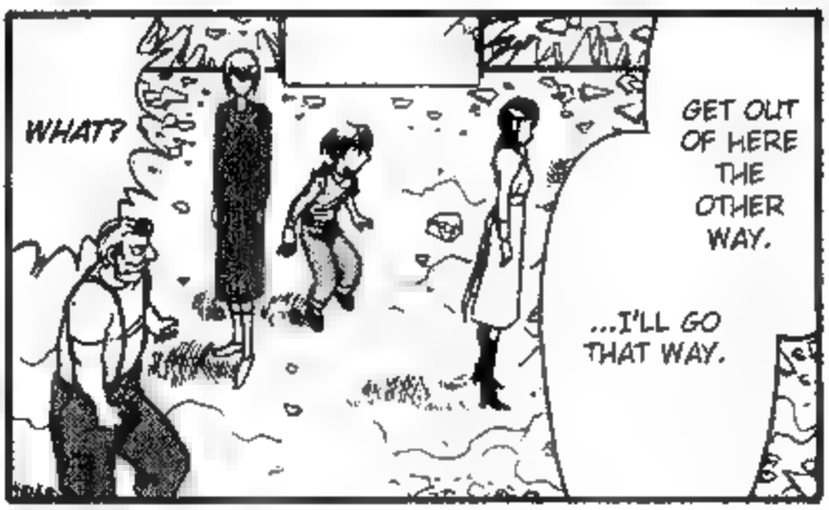
THE POLICE?
I'M CALLING THE POLICE IMMEDI-ATELY!
GAAHH!
SHUT UP! STUPID AMATEUR!
AND...
GULP
NO! I'M CALLING THE POLICE!
I BEG YOU! THESE PEOPLE DIDN'T DO ANYTHING WRONG!
EVERY-THING'S MY FAULT...
...PRAISEWORTHY BEHAVIOUR!!
...THAT YOU ALL HAD...
...THEN, I WILL CLEARLY EXPLAIN TO THEM...

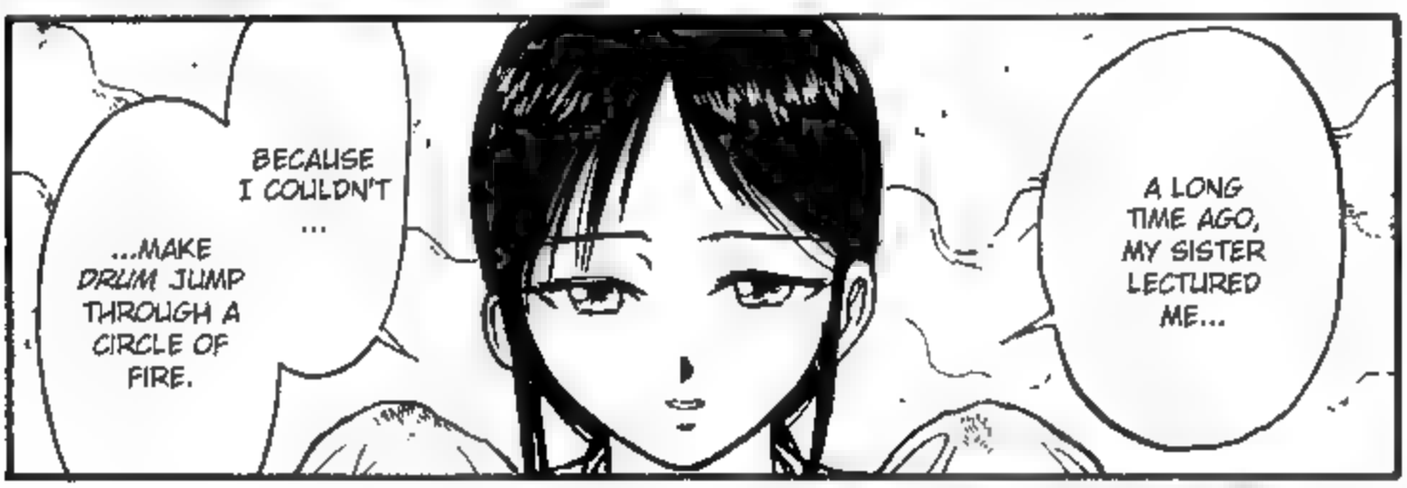
WHAT DID YOU THINK?... THAT POOR PEOPLE HAVE A MONOPOLY ON KINDNESS? YOU THINK THAT IT'S A CHARACTER TRAIT THAT ONLY YOU HAVE!?
PFFF
YOU ARE A LOT MORE SENTIMENTAL THAN I THOUGHT!
HEY! PROFESSOR!
YOU JUST ADMITTED THAT YOU WERE WRONG...
CAISSE
PSCHHH
GOODBYE... AMATEURS!
GOOOOHHH
WE HAVE TO GO TOO!
WELL...
...TARANDA?
!

"YOU'RE REALLY USELESS!!"
HELEN ...

..."EVEN THOUGH IT'S OUR MOST DOCILE BEAST!"
"YOU CAN'T EVEN MAKE DRUM JUMP THROUGH THIS CIRCLE OF FIRE?!"

WHY DO YOU WANT TO DO THIS?
IT'S AN OCEAN OF FIRE!

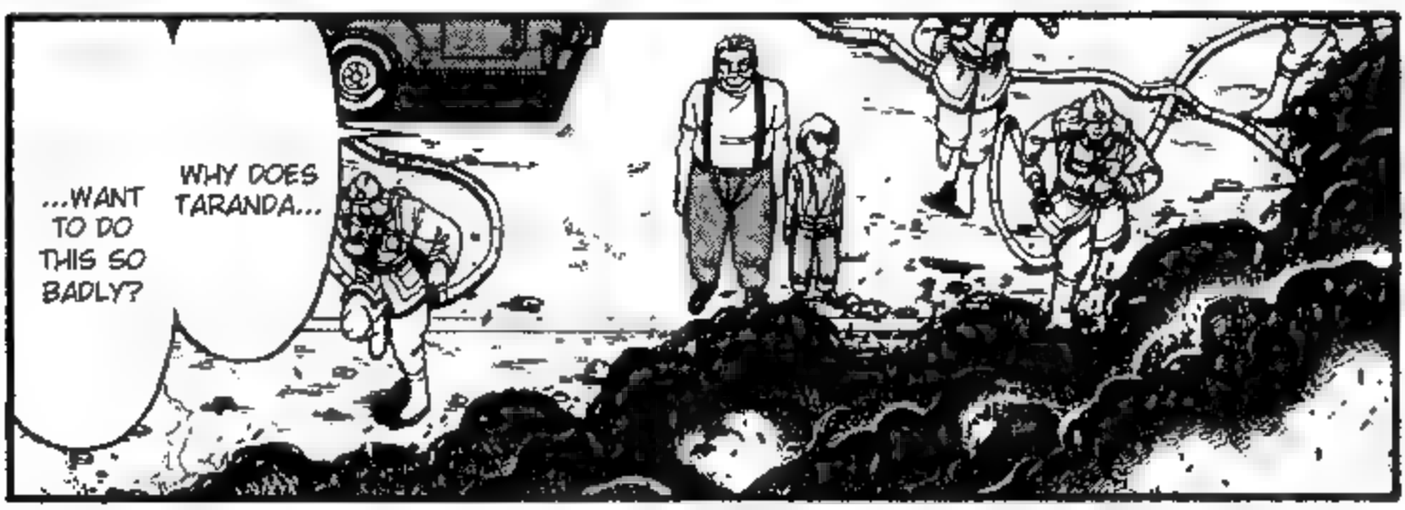

WHAT?
GET OUT OF HERE THE OTHER WAY.
...I'LL GO THAT WAY.


BECAUSE I COULDN'T ...
...MAKE DRUM JUMP THROUGH A CIRCLE OF FIRE.
A LONG TIME AGO, MY SISTER LECTURED ME...

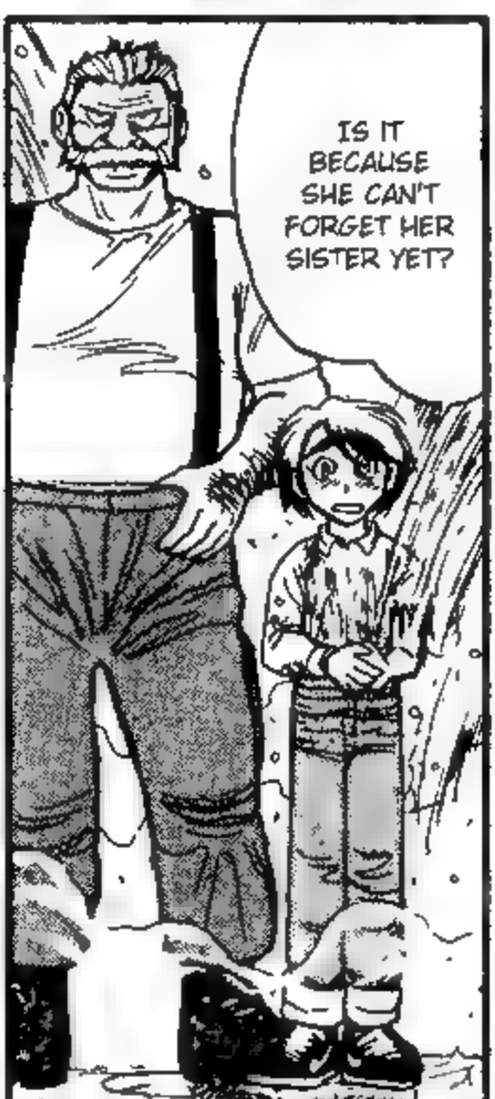
TODAY...
...I CAN DO IT!

MASTER... I DEMAND IT AS A PERSONAL FAVOUR...
SHIRO-GANE!
LET HER DO IT!
BUT WHY!?
YOU SHOULDN'T DEPEND ON YOUR SISTER!
SAH
...SHIRO-GANE.
THANKS A LOT...
NOW...
...WE HAVE TO CREATE THE "CIRCLE OF FIRE"!
SCHLACK!!

GOOOHHH

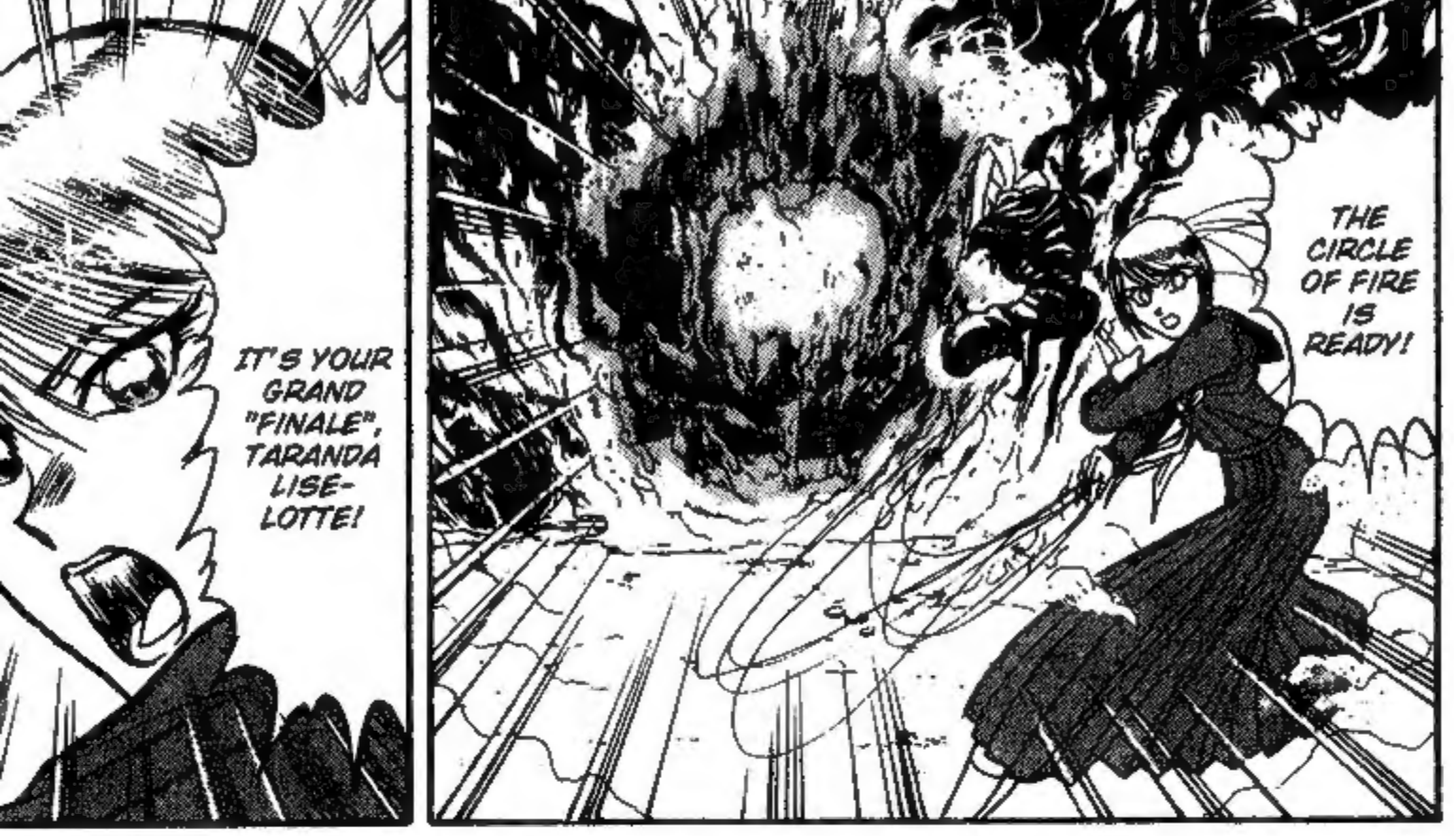

WHY DOES TARANDA...
...WANT TO DO THIS SO BADLY?

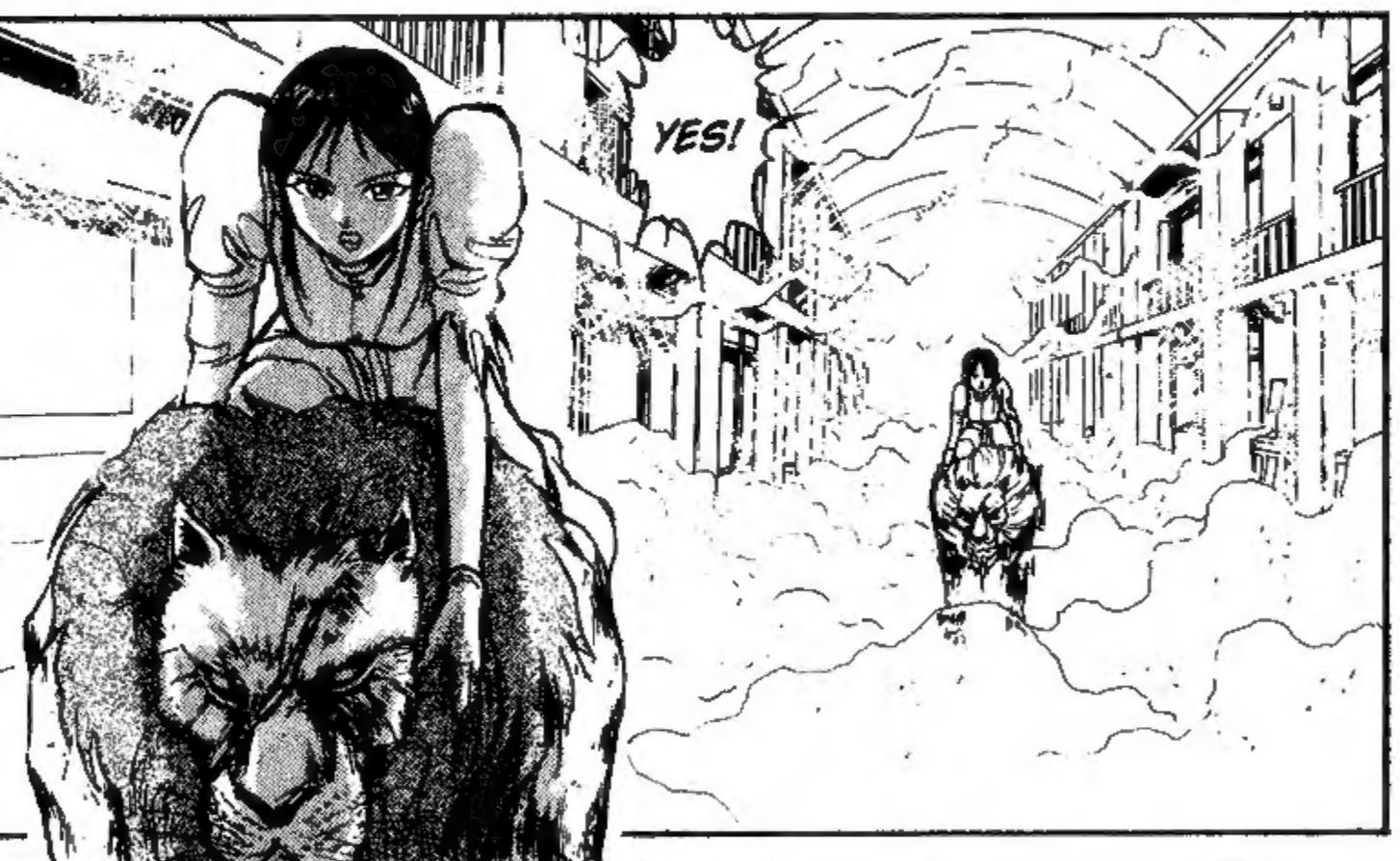
LISTEN BOY,
YOU'RE YOUNG, SO IT CAN BE HARD TO UNDER-STAND.


IS IT BECAUSE SHE CAN'T FORGET HER SISTER YET?

SOMETIMES, ADULTS...
...FEEL THE NEED TO DO SOME THINGS, EVEN IF IT'S NOT LOGICAL.

BLANG BLANG
SO LOUD ...
OUAH!
BLANG
SCHLA
SCHLA
SOMETHING IS HITTING THE TANK TRUCK.
BANG
SAH
WHAT WAS THAT?!
SCHLACK


IT'S YOUR GRAND "FINALE", TARANDA LISE-LOTTE!
THE CIRCLE OF FIRE IS READY!


YES!

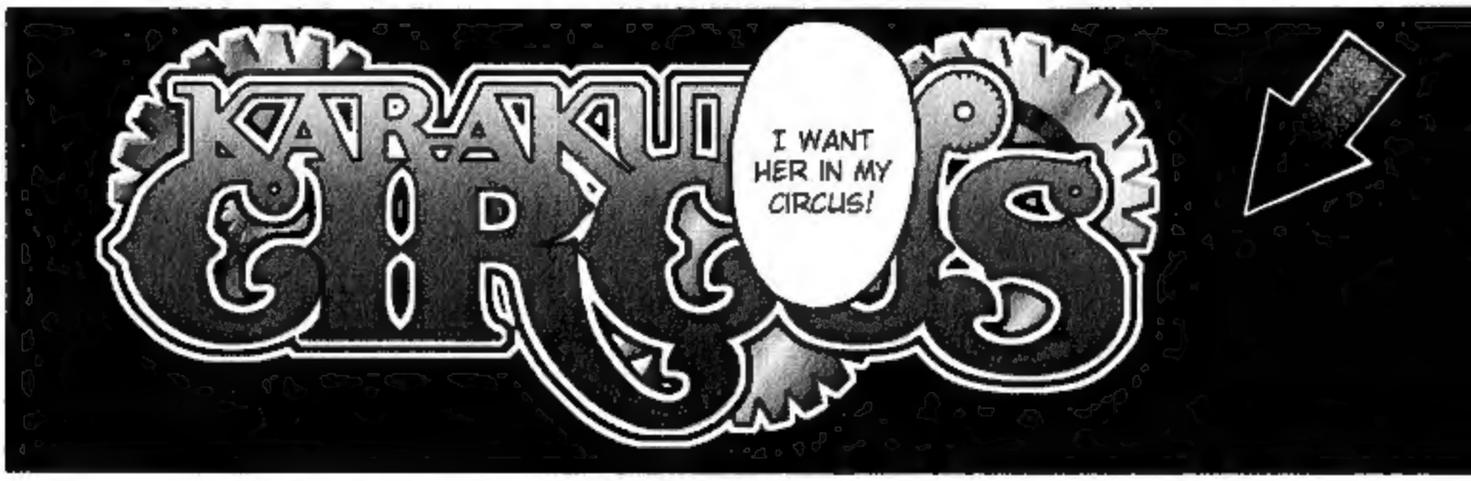
BUT... I STILL WANT TO BE PART OF THE CIRCUS WORLD!
I WANTED SO MUCH TO LEARN OTHER THINGS FROM YOU ... BY JOINING YOU IN THE AFTERLIFE.
HELEN, KNOW THAT I'LL RESPECT YOU FOREVER...

DAAHH
LET'S GO!
...BY STAYING ALIVE!
SO, I'D RATHER GET CLOSER TO YOU...
...TO BE ALIVE!!
BECAUSE IT'S A LOT BETTER...
...CAN'T YOU, DRUM?
YOU CAN SEE DEEP IN MY HEART...
GRRR
DRUM, WHAT WOULD YOU SAY IF WE WERE PART OF THE NAKAMACHI CIRCUS?

... AND THANK YOU
FORGIVE ME, DRUM...
BUT YOU WEREN'T ...
YOU KNOW... I ALWAYS THOUGHT THAT YOU WERE FOLLOWING ME TO AVENGE HELEN...
JUMP, DRUM

ZZOMF

MAR-
VEL-
OUS...
...
WHAT AN
ARTIST!


KARAKURI
CIRCUS
I WANT
HER IN MY
CIRCUS!